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Weekly Bulletin

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Vol. X, No. 36 October 10, 1931 **GUY P. JONES** **EDITOR**

David Starr Jordan Helped Develop Public Health

Because Dr. David Starr Jordan, Chancellor Emeritus of Stanford University, who died September 19, devoted most of his activities to icthyology education and to the movement for world peace, it has been generally forgotten that he was a Doctor of Medicine and that he exerted a considerable influence in the development of public health in California and throughout the United States. He, together with Dr. Prince Morrow of New York City, twenty years ago, dared to make the public assertion that the venereal diseases should be spoken of openly the same as any other infections, and that efforts should be made to place them under control. It was Dr. Jordan who made the striking comment that the venereal diseases exist principally among the idle rich and the idle poor. He helped to organize the National Society for the Prevention of Syphilis and Gonorrhea, which developed into the American Social Hygiene Association, whose general director is Dr. William F. Inom, formerly secretary of the California State Board of Health.

In his many writings, but particularly in his "Care and Culture of Men," is presented a true public health point of view. In 1905, when a disastrous epidemic of typhoid fever swept through Palo Alto and Stanford University, Dr. Jordan instigated an intensive investigation into the cause of the epidemic, as a result of which a full-time health department came into existence in Palo Alto. This department has functioned continuously since that time and has made an outstanding record among health departments throughout the United States.

It is almost forty years since David Starr Jordan first came to California. At that time educational policies were based largely upon philosophy, ethics and morals. Science occupied an insignificant part in all educational programs. Dr. Jordan speeded up the development of education along scientific lines, and in so doing he furthered public health education in California. Most of the thousands of students who have gone forth from Stanford University in the past thirty-five years have been students who were well grounded in scientific subjects or who at least had a full appreciation of the place of science in education. A very large proportion became teachers, and the influence that they have exerted in their respective fields of work is too great for measurement. Many of his students have become nationally known public health executives.

California owes a great debt of gratitude to David Starr Jordan for the tremendous part that he has played in the development of civilization on the western fringe of the continent. This rugged, fearless disciple of truth and peace will no longer advocate his firm beliefs in person, but the influence of this "grand old man" will go down throughout the ages.

Ability and necessity dwell near each other.—*Pythagoras.*

Learning is an ornament in prosperity, a refuge in adversity, and a provision in old age.—*Aristotle.*

IMPERIAL COUNTY HEALTH REPORT SHOWS EXCELLENCE

Dr. Warren F. Fox, Health Officer of Imperial County, has issued the first annual report of the Imperial County Health Department since it was inaugurated as a full-time health unit on July 1, 1930. The report is very complete, and is fully illustrated with maps and charts. It indicates not only a large amount of work in its preparation, but it indicates also a vast amount of routine work in the Health Department. While Imperial County has some serious problems to contend with, it is interesting to note that the general death rate for this county since 1926 has been lower than the general death rate for either California or the United States registration area.

Dr. Fox has been pioneering in public health, and the work that he has accomplished in Imperial County is fundamental, considering the importance of a permanent public health program, because of the growth that will come following the construction of the Hoover Dam and the All-American Canal project. For the first time in the history of the county, all students in the rural schools were given complete physical examinations, and diphtheria immunization was offered to all children up to twelve years of age, both within the unincorporated area of the county and the city of El Centro. At the present time, Dr. Fox has the assistance of two public health nurses and a sanitary inspector, together with the part-time services of a clerk and a market milk inspector.

While diphtheria is well under control in Imperial County, typhoid fever constitutes a problem. Although some typhoid fever is imported, the use of untreated ditch water is undoubtedly a factor in the production of the county's high typhoid death rate. Because of its close proximity to the Mexican border, smallpox in past years has constituted a major health problem. In the year covered by this report, however, there were but thirty cases of this disease reported. Considerable work in education for the purpose of stimulating vaccination against smallpox has been carried on through the press, over the radio, and in addresses to various organizations.

A tuberculosis survey within the county presents the interesting fact that 58.7 per cent of the deaths from tuberculosis are in Mexicans, 19 per cent are in Orientals and other races, and 22.2 per cent occur among white residents. Tuberculosis is an acute problem in Imperial County, as it is in many other California communities. Tuberculous individuals who come to California to escape severe winters elsewhere, frequently stop in Imperial County, unable to proceed farther.

The work in child hygiene carried on by the department has been very extensive, as well as the work in school hygiene. More than 3000 school children were examined by the health officer last year.

A large amount of work was accomplished in sanitary inspection and in food sanitation. The protection of water supplies, which constitute a major public health problem in Imperial County, also received a large amount of attention. The sanitation of swimming pools, schools, and food producing establishments occupied a large amount of time on the part of the inspector.

Dr. Fox outlines ten main objectives in the formation of a plan for carrying on future work within the counties. The objectives are well considered and are possible of achievement. Dr. Fox and the county of Imperial ought to be congratulated on the excellent start made in the development of an adequate health program for Imperial County.

SECOND USE OF CASKET FOR HUMAN DEAD PROHIBITED

The following resolution was adopted by the State Board of Public Health, at its regular meeting held on September 19, 1931.

> "The practice of removing a dead human body from the casket and returning the casket to be used again for the reception of other dead bodies is not in accordance with the principles of sanitation and may constitute a menace to the public health. The second use of a casket or any part of a casket for containing a dead human body is, therefore, prohibited."

DEVELOPMENTS IN NURSING EDUCATION

Eight schools of nursing were visited during the month for partial inspections and for conferences with the directors of such schools. The San Bernardino and Riverside Junior Colleges were visited in response to requests from officials who desired to discuss future plans for the schools of nursing in connection with hospitals in their respective communities. The control of two schools of nursing has been transferred to these junior colleges, which institutions pay the salaries of the directors of nursing and the instructors of the two respective hospitals, beside providing instruction for students in the basis sciences at the junior college. This relieves the hospital of approximately six thousand dollars per year in salaries. The Junior College at Pasadena has assumed the salaries of two instructors in the school of nursing, and also provides instruction in the basic sciences.

PURE WATER SUPPLIES CURB TYPHOID FEVER

The marked reduction in the prevalence of typhoid fever throughout the United States has been one of the outstanding accomplishments in public health during the past quarter of a century. This has been accomplished in cities whose sources of public water supply are grossly polluted, largely by the intelligent installation of approved water purification plants. However, although the purified public drinking water meets the accepted sanitary standards, there often persists in such cities a small number of cases of typhoid fever. This fact stimulated the United States Public Health Service to undertake an extensive study of these persisting or residual cases of typhoid fever; the object being to determine if they could bear any relation to the municipal drinking water, even though it did meet the present rigid sanitary standards.

Six cities situated on the Ohio River were selected for study, both because of the polluted character of their raw water supplies and because of the excellence of their municipal water purification plants.

The Ohio River is the source of the public water supply for each city. During the period of raw water consumption, the typhoid fever incidence in each city was uniformly very high in every month of the year—a seasonal distribution which is typical of endemic water-borne typhoid fever. Following the installation of the present public water supplies the typhoid incidence promptly fell to a low rate comparable with rates prevailing in other cities on the Ohio River watershed which have had, at least since 1914, safe water supplies. At the same time the seasonal distribution changed so as to give a definitely summer and fall disease.

Ample evidence did accumulate to indicate that routes of transmission of typhoid fever other than the public water supply were in all probability the more usual. Therefore, the conclusion was reached from the evidence collected that modern water purification plants, such as are in operation in the six cities studied, when properly operated and controlled, effectively eliminate the danger of contracting typhiod fever from the public drinking water even though the raw water supply be grossly polluted.

SANITARY SURVEYS

Sanitary surveys of the water supplies and sewage disposal systems of the following towns have been made during the past month: Dorris, Dunsmuir, Etna, Fort Jones, Montague, Shasta City, Weaverville, Yreka. Surveys of water supplies only have been made in Beverly Hills and Long Beach.

SAN JOAQUIN HEALTH DISTRICT LABORATORY IS BUSY

Dr. John J. Sibby, health officer of the San Joaquin Health District at Stockton, in his monthly "Health Review," gives an interesting account of the growth of laboratory service in his department. He states as follows:

> "During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931, 17,946 specimens were submitted to the laboratory for examination. This is an increase of 7.8 per cent over the previous year of 1929–30, and of 146 per cent over that of 1923–24, the first year of our existence.
>
> 73.6 per cent of the specimens during the past year were submitted for diagnosis or guidance in treatment of disease. The other 26.4 per cent included 319 water analyses, 4398 milk samples and 11 sterility tests.
>
> Of the 73.6 per cent, 314 specimens were for diagnosis of typhoid fever, 286 specimens of feces and urine for determination of carriers or release of typhoid fever cases, 5029 for syphilis, 2330 for gonorrhea, 5 for malaria, 1652 for diphtheria, 317 for tuberculosis, 7 for anthrax, 50 for intestinal parasites, 294 for Vincent's infections, 30 for streptococcus, 15 for rabies, 7 for leprosy, 17 for Brucella abortus, 8 for meningitis and poliomyelitis, and 4 for pertussis. There were also included 149 blood specimens for counts and 4 for coagulation time, 2175 urinalyses, 2 animal inoculations and 26 unsatisfactory specimens.
>
> 2562 specimens of 14.3 per cent of the total were brought in by physicians. This is a slight decline from the previous year when physicians submitted 2668 specimens or 16 per cent of the total and somewhat contrary to expectations, for with increased economic depression, it was expected that there would occur more demands for free laboratory service. The department laboratory is always willing to serve those who, in the opinion of attending physicians, are unable to pay private laboratory fees, but it hoped that physicians will exercise discretion to see that free facilities are not abused. Specimens submitted for diagnosis of communicable disease are of course within the province of the public health laboratory and are accepted without question, but in other than these, use of the private laboratory is to be encouraged whenever possible.
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> Certainly, increase in the use of the laboratory bespeaks increased accuracy of diagnosis and in consequence, better service to patients."

SWIMMING POOL REGULATIONS

An amendment to the Swimming Pool Act by the 1931 Legislature places the enforcement of the regulations under local health officers. This necessitates a complete reorganization of the regulations of the State Board of Public Health for the sanitation of swimming pools. A tentative draft has been made and submitted to a number of local health officers, following which it will come up before the State Board of Public Health for its consideration.

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria.

43 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Contra Costa County 1, Imperial County 2, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 7, Compton 1, Glendale 4, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 4, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, Gardena 1, Merced County 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 2, Lompoc 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 2, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 1, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 3, Yolo County 1.

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* From reports received on October 5th and 6th for week ending October 3d.

Scarlet Fever.

79 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 3, Oakland 3, Butte County 1, Chico 2, Richmond 1, Fresno County 1, Bishop 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 3, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 7, Alhambra 2, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 1, San Fernando 2, Whittier 4, Madera 1, San Rafael 1, Orange County 7, Anaheim 1, Huntington Beach 1, Ontario 2, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 4, Stockton 3, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Luis Obispo 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 1, Santa Clara 1, Redding 6, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 1, Davis 1.

Measles.

54 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 9, Berkeley 1, Oakland 5, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 1, Pasadena 1, South Pasadena 2, Sacramento 10, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 13, San Joaquin County 2, Santa Clara County 2, Sunnyvale 1, Santa Cruz County 2, Santa Cruz 2, Red Bluff 1.

Smallpox.

4 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Hanford 1, Tehama County 3.

Typhoid Fever.

18 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 2, Contra Costa County 2, Bishop 1, Glendale 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 1, San Luis Obispo County 4, Santa Clara County 2, Sutter County 1, Oxnard 1.

Whooping Cough.

70 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 10, Oakland 4, Bishop 1, Los Angeles County 7, Alhambra 1, Azusa 2, Long Beach 2, South Gate 2, Tujunga 3, Brea 3, San Diego 9, San Francisco 9, San Joaquin County 4, Manteca 1, San Luis Obispo 3, Santa Barbara County 6, San Jose 3.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

4 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Fresno 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1.

Poliomyelitis.

4 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Imperial County 1, San Francisco 1, Tulare County 1, Yolo County 1.

Encephalitis.

San Francisco reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

Undulant Fever.

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Pasadena 1, Ontario 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma.

2 cases of coccidioidal granuloma have been reported, as follows: Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 1.

Tularemia.

Two cases of tularemia have been reported; source of infection, Arizona.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1931				1930			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Oct. 3 received by Oct. 6	Week ending			Reports for week ending Oct. 4 received by Oct. 7
	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26		Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	
Botulism	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0
Chickenpox	23	53	43	56	48	64	107	86
Coccidioidal Granuloma	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	1
Diphtheria	32	35	60	43	37	19	45	39
Dysentery (Amoebic)	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dysentery (Bacillary)	4	5	4	2	1	6	4	2
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1	1	1	1	4	2	6	1
Erysipelas	12	6	10	8	10	5	6	6
Food Poisoning	2	11	6	0	3	8	4	1
German Measles	7	6	9	2	9	3	1	6
Gonococcus Infection	127	156	134	111	200	149	110	125
Hookworm	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Influenza	15	27	23	15	13	11	29	31
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
Measles	44	86	38	54	48	42	60	67
Meningitis (Epidemic)	3	3	6	4	3	2	4	1
Mumps	24	46	64	42	91	95	111	107
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	1	2	2	4	1	1	1	1
Pellagra	0	2	2	1	1	2	5	3
Pneumonia (Lobar)	20	23	37	22	18	26	58	21
Poliomyelitis	11	9	10	4	62	68	76	68
Rabies (Animal)	4	4	8	1	14	9	26	12
Scarlet Fever	35	55	66	79	40	37	68	73
Septic Sore Throat	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Smallpox	1	5	6	4	11	8	18	10
Syphilis	241	184	170	103	119	187	130	150
Tetanus	4	1	4	2	0	0	2	2
Trachoma	2	2	2	9	9	3	4	1
Trichinosis	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Tuberculosis	134	195	203	141	173	190	232	169
Tularemia	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Typhoid Fever	19	32	9	18	16	18	19	14
Undulant Fever	0	3	3	2	1	2	6	3
Whooping Cough	93	105	111	70	123	112	88	82
Totals	863	1,061	1,042	804	1,061	1,071	1,223	1,084

Two cases of coccidioidal granuloma were reported last week.

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Tularemia, imported from Arizona, has been reported in California.

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Epidemic poliomyelitis is still within bounds.

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Most of the reportable diseases are not widely prevalent.

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